

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 IO-13 DHA-02 PA-01 PRS-01

EUR-12 EA-07 H-01 /067 W

-----091149 042100Z /63

P R 041530Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1630

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 5705

FOR ASST SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), AR

SUBJECT: TODMAN VISIT - POSSIBLE PRESS QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTED
ANSWERS

1. SUBMITTED BELOW ARE THE SOME POSSIBLE PRESS QUESTIONS
DURING VISIT TO BUENOS AIRES AND SUGGESTED ANSWERS.

2. Q. THE U.S. APPEARS TO APPLY A DOUBLE STANDARD IN
ITS HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, ATTACKING COUNTRIES LIKE ARGENTINA
BUT REFRAINING FROM CRITICISM IN SOUTH KOREA, THE PHILLIPINES
AND OTHER NATIONS. IF YOU ARE SERIOUS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS,
WHY THE DOUBLE STANDARD?

3. A. WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT WE HAVE LONG STANDING
DEFENSE COMMITMENTS WITH COUNTRIES LIKE SOUTH KOREA AND
THE PHILLIPINES, IT IS EMPHATICALLY NOT TRUE THAT WE HAVE
NOT STRONGLY POINTED OUT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THOSE
COUNTRIES. WE ARE DOING THIS IN EVERY COUNTRY WITH
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WHICH WE HAVE RELATIONS. IN THE SOVIET UNION WE HAVE
ACTIVELY PURSUED HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS ALTHOUGH OUR
STRATEGIC RELATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY ARE HIGHLY
IMPORTANT.

4. WE ALSO ARE CONSISTENT IN OUR STAND AGAINST TERRORISM
WHEREVER IT MAY TAKE PLACE, AND CONDEMN VIOLENCE, REGARD-

LESS OF ITS SOURCE. OUR SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE WAS AMONG THE FIRST TO CONDEMN THE SENSELESS TERRORIST ATTACK ON FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER GUZZETTI, WHO NOW IS RECOVERING FROM HIS WOUNDS AT BETHESDA NAVAL HOSPITAL.

5. Q. THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT TO ARGENTINA AND COMES AT A TIME WHEN INDICATIONS ARE THAT U.S. POLICY TOWARD LATIN AMERICA IS "CHANGING". WHAT ARE THE CHANGES AND HOW COULD THEY AFFECT ARGENTINA?

6. A. WHAT HAS CHANGED MOST IN U.S. POLICY IS THE AWARENESS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION THAT THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ARE CENTRAL TO THE ISSUES OF OUR TIME. THE MAJOR THRUST OF OUR PRESENT POLICY WILL ENTAIL CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE NATIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE; ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARMS CONTROL. WHAT WE CANNOT DO IS SOLVE OUR MUTUAL PROBLEMS WITH U.S. MADE SOLUTIONS. WE WILL NOT REDUCE OUR RELATIONS WITH THE HEMISPHERE TO A SLOGAN. WHAT WE CAN HOPE FOR IS TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S PERSPECTIVES AND WORK TOGETHER ON THE MANY ISSUES THAT FACE US.

7. Q. WHY HAS THE U.S. NOT YET NAMED A NEW AMBASSADOR TO ARGENTINA? IS THAT AN INDICATION THAT THE UNITED STATES IS DISPLEASED WITH ARGENTINA?
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8. A. SUGGEST WASHINGTON WRITE THIS ANSWER.

9. Q. WHY ARE YOU SEEKING RAPPROACHMENT WITH CUBA, THE LEADING VIOLATOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE HEMISPHERE?

10. A. IT IS TRUE THAT WE HAVE MANY SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES WITH CUBA AND THAT THAT COUNTRY IS GUILTY OF SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. FURTHER, WE DEPLORE CUBA'S ACTIONS IN SENDING TROOPS TO AFRICA. AS YOU KNOW, FOR 16 YEARS WE HAD NO CONTACT WITH CUBA AND DURING THAT TIME NO PROGRESS WAS MADE IN ATTEMPTING TO SOLVE ANY OF THE PROBLEMS. PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED ONLY WHEN GOVERNMENTS TALK TO EACH OTHER. FOR THAT REASON, WE BEGAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH CUBA TO ESTABLISH MARITIME BOUNDARIES AND FISHING RIGHTS WHICH LATER LED TO THE JOINT DECISION TO ESTABLISH "INTEREST SECTIONS" IN WASHINGTON AND HAVANA SO THAT WE CAN BE IN COMMUNICATION OVER HUMAN RIGHTS, AFRICA AND OTHER SERIOUS QUESTIONS IN THE FUTURE. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF "INTERESTS SECTIONS" DOES NOT IMPLY RECOGNITION.

11. Q. WHY DOES THE U.S. LISTEN ONLY TO ONE SIDE OF THE

HUMAN RIGHTS STORY IN ARGENTINA? KNOWN LEFTISTS TESTIFY
BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES WITH NO CHANCE FOR THE
OTHER SIDE TO BE HEARD. FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT IS YOUR
REACTION TO EX-AMBASSADOR HILL'S COMMENTS ON U.S.
HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY TOWARD ARGENTINA? DO YOU AGREE WITH
HIM?

12. A. I BELIEVE YOU ARE ALL AWARE OF THE COMING VISITS
OF A LARGE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS, BOTH
REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS. THEY ARE COMING TO HEAR
FROM GOVERNMENT LEADERS, BUSINESSMEN, INTELLECTUALS AND
OTHERS JUST WHAT THE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA IS. AS YOU
KNOW, I HAVE TALKED WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA IN CARACAS;
FOREIGN MINISTER MONTES CONFERRED WITH SECRETARY VANCE
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IN GRENADA, AND MINISTER MARTINEZ DE HOZ HAS MET WITH
SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL, MR. BRZEZINSKI, AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN
AND OTHER U.S. LEADERS. MS. PATRICIA DERIAN HAS BEEN
HERE TWICE. I THINK THAT REPRESENTS A PRETTY GOOD
RECORD OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND,
CERTAINLY, IT IS ONE WE WANT TO CONTINUE AND HOPE TO
IMPROVE IN THE FUTURE. WE ARE AWARE OF AMBASSADOR
HILL'S VIEWS AND OF THOSE OF AMERICANS LIVING HERE,
AND THEY HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. FURTHER-
MORE, IT SHOULD NOT BE FELT THAT ONLY NEGATIVE NEWS ABOUT

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 IO-13 DHA-02 PA-01 PRS-01

EUR-12 EA-07 H-01 /067 W

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P R 041530Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1631

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FOR ASST SECRETARY TODMAN

ARGENTINA CIRCULATES IN WASHINGTON. PRESIDENT CARTER REFERRED VERY FAVORABLY TO AN EVENT HERE OF HUMAN RIGHTS SIGNIFICANCE WHEN HE MET RECENTLY WITH THE CITIZENS OF YAZOO CITY, MISSISSIPPI.

13. Q. WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE U.S. IN REGARD TO EXTRADITION OF FORMER ARGENTINE MINISTER OF ECONOMY JOSE GELBARD?

14. A. ANY REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL IS RECEIVED AND HANDLED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXISTING EXTRADITION TREATY BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ARGENTINA. MR. GELBARD ENTERED THE U.S. WITH A VALID ARGENTINE PASSPORT; SUBSEQUENTLY HE WAS STRIPPED OF CITIZENSHIP BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA.

15. FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, HE IS NOT A POLITICAL REFUGEE BUT SIMPLY WAS PROVIDED WITH DOCUMENTATION BY THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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U.S. IMMIGRATION LAWS, INASMUCH AS HE FOUND HIMSELF WITHOUT A VALID PASSPORT, HIS OWN HAVING BEEN REVOKED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA.

16. HIS CURRENT STATUS IS PRESENTLY BEING CONSIDERED BY THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE. IN NO SENSE CAN IT BE SAID THAT HE HAS ATTAINED THE STATUS OF POLITICAL ASYLEE. I PERSONALLY DON'T KNOW WHETHER HE IS LIVING IN THE U.S. NOW.

17. Q. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE UNITED STATES PLANS TO USE SANCTIONS, INCLUDING THE DENIAL OF MILITARY AID, TRAINING AND SALES, TO COUNTRIES CONSIDERED GUILTY OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. HOW DOES THIS AFFECT ARGENTINA?

18. A. MANY AMERICANS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. CONGRESSMEN, WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE TO THE VOTERS, HAVE, EVEN BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER CAME TO OFFICE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CLOSELY COOPERATE WITH COUNTRIES IN CLEAR VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. MORE RECENTLY THE CONGRESS HAS PASSED LAWS WHICH ARE BINDING

ON THE ADMINISTRATION PROVIDING FOR THE SUSPENSION OF ARMS
SALES AND OTHER MEASURES IN THESE CASES.

19. AS YOU KNOW, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SOUGHT FLEXIBILITY
IN THE APPLICATION OF THESE CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED
SANCTIONS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE, NEVERTHELESS, THE PRESIDENT'
S
FIRM AND ARDENT SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, AND HIS
RECOGNITION THAT HIS POSITION ACCORDS WITH THE WISHES OF
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
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20. HUMAN RIGHTS IS ONE OF THE SUBJECTS I HAVE COME TO
ARGENTINA TO DISCUSS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT EACH COUNTRY
IS DIFFERENT AND FACES VARIED PROBLEMS, IN ARGENTINA'S
CASE THE PROBLEM OF ARMED SUBVERSION AND TERRORISM.
WE HAVE HAD A VERY CANDID EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND I WILL
RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES TO MAKE SURE THAT THE
PRESIDENT AND THE LEGISLATORS UNDERSTAND ARGENTINA'S
POINT OF VIEW.

21. TWO GROUPS OF IMPORTANT SENATORS AND
CONGRESSMEN WILL BE VISITING ARGENTINA IN THE NEAR
FUTURE. I AM SURE THAT THEY WILL HAVE THE SAME KIND OF
FRANK DISCUSSIONS WITH ARGENTINE LEADERS AND I HOPE THAT
THESE FACE TO FACE MEETINGS WILL INCREASE MUTUAL UNDER-
STANDING AND COMPREHENSION OF THE PROBLEMS EACH COUNTRY
FACES. (WASHINGTON TO PLEASE PROVIDE ADDITION TO THIS
STATEMENT ON WHAT ARGENTINA STANDS TO LOSE AS A RESULT
OF THE RECENTLY ENACTED FOREIGN SECURITY ASSISTANCE
LEGISLATION.)

22. IF ASKED ABOUT THE GRAIVER CASE, WE SUGGEST THAT
YOUR REPLY BE LIMITED TO THE OBSERVATION THAT IT IS AN
ARGENTINE CONCERN WHICH YOU UNDERSTAND IS BEING CON-
SIDERED BY AUTHORITIES, BOTH CIVIL AND MILITARY
AT THE PRESENT TIME.

23. WE NOTE THAT STATE 179436 SCHEDULES A DEPARTURE
STATEMENT/BRIEF DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE AT 8:15 A.M.
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16. SINCE IT IS LIKELY THAT THE ARGENTINE
STOP WILL BE THE MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TRIP, AND
GIVEN THE ALREADY DEEP INTEREST THE MEDIA, FOREIGN AND
DOMESTIC, ARE SHOWING IN YOUR VISIT, WE VENTURE TO SUGGEST
THAT YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER RE-SCHEDULING A MONDAY
EVENING PRESS CONFERENCE TO GIVE YOU AT LEAST 45 MINUTES
WITH THE MEDIA. THIS WOULD PROVIDE PRIMETIME TV AND
RADIO COVERAGE AS WELL AS RADIO, INSURE FULL PRESENTA-
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TION OF YOUR VIEWS IN TUESDAY NEWSPAPERS AND ENABLE
IMPORTANT FOREIGN PRESS CORPS TO FILE IN TIME FOR STATE-
SIDE COVERAGE.
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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1712969
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TODMAN VISIT - POSSIBLE PRESS QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTED ANSWERS
TAGS: OVIP, AR, (TODMAN, TERENCE A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ecb0fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009